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Point of View

Thesis Statement

The Challenger

Are you brave enough to go millions of miles up in space to discover what is out in the unknown? On January 28th, 1986 the Space Shuttle Challenger launched but shortly after occurred a devastating explosion. Because of the publicity this event has produced, I was quite interested in the topic. Although I had never heard of the Space Shuttle Challenger, I wanted to pick this event to research.

This began in the 70’s to create a reusable craft for transporting cargo into space. The challenger flew nine successful missions before that fateful date of the disaster on the 28th. This mission was unique because it was to be the first flight of a new program called teacher in Space Program. The challenger was plagued by problems on this fateful day. The liftoff got delayed many days because of bad weather, equipment problems and just pure bad luck.

There were seven people that lost there lives that day on the challenger. Sharon Christa McAuliffe was a crew member on the challenger. She was payload specialist and also would have been the first teacher to fly in space. (<about.com>) The crew consisted of mission commander Francis R. Scobee. Michael J. Smith was the pilot of the challenger. Specialists included Ronald E. McNair, Ellison S. Onizuka, and Judith A. Resnik. Finally there was another payload specialist named Gregory B. Jarvis. There were seven people lost that fateful day that the challenger went down.

The Challenger held many firsts before the tragic explosion. It was the first shuttle to have a seven person crew. Also the challenger was the first seven person crew to include two women. Also the challenger held the record for having the first female walk in space. Even though there were a lot of great records broke and so many memories made the challenger still ended disastrous. After the Challenger took off it was only 73 seconds after liftoff that it exploded, killing every single crew member.

In Conclusion, the Challenger was a very record breaking shuttle mission. It devastated a lot with the sudden explosion but buried itself in every person’s heart that heard about it. The Challenger carried women, men, whites, blacks, and even teachers on board. Proving acceptance in America and showing that diversity is pulling through. Learning about the Challenger changed my prospective on NASA today. All I even thought was that NASA was just people flying up and back from space. They have a reason behind everything. The next time I am sitting at my house with my father and he turns on a shuttle launch, ill remember the men and women that lost their lives during the tragic explosion destroying the Challenger.

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